

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/784,443	BURG, DONALD E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Lars A Olson	3617	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment received from the applicant on February 11, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-79.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 February 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. An amendment was received from the applicant on February 11, 2005.
2. Claims 1-79 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The improved surface effect ship as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a ship that includes port and starboard sidehulls each having a bow member that are supported upon a water surface by at least one artificially pressurized gas cushion, and a gas cushion forward seal member that is a non-moveable structure, and is disposed at least in part between said port and starboard bow members, where said gas cushion forward seal member is no more than 50 percent of a width of said ship. The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said improved surface effect ship as described above in combination with a third hull member that is disposed between said port and starboard bow members, where gas cushion forward seal members are disposed at least in part between said port sidehull bow and said third hull member, and said starboard sidehull bow and said third hull member, and where said gas cushion forward seal members are non-moveable in relation to said ship.
4. The prior art as disclosed by Burg (US 4,890,564) shows the use of a surface effect ship having port and starboard bow members that are supported on a water surface by at least one artificially pressurized gas cushion, where water contacting portions of said port and starboard bow members extend forward of lower water

contacting portions of a plurality of moveable hinged gas seal members, said hinged gas seal members being disposed between said port and starboard bow members.

However, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of an improved surface effect ship that includes port and starboard sidehulls each having a bow member that are supported upon a water surface by at least one artificially pressurized gas cushion, and a gas cushion forward seal member that is a non-moveable structure, and is disposed at least in part between said port and starboard bow members, where said gas cushion forward seal member is no more than 50 percent of a width of said ship.

The prior art also does not show or suggest the use of said improved surface effect ship as described above in combination with a third hull member that is disposed between said port and starboard bow members, where gas cushion forward seal members are disposed at least in part between said port sidehull bow and said third hull member, and said starboard sidehull bow and said third hull member, and where said gas cushion forward seal members are non-moveable in relation to said ship.

Conclusion

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (703) 308-9807.

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March 7, 2005

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
3 / 7 / 05